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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not know; here is an elementary right denied to the people."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to (e), if any injustice is done by the local bodies, are not Government going to interfere in the matter?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I have already answered that if cases of injustice done to these people are brought to the notice of Government, they will consider such cases."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"With reference to clause (c), it is admitted that the Government Order dated 25th August 1924 is not respected by taluk boards. What action does the hon. Minister propose to take for disregarding the Government Order. It is practically admitted in the answer that the Government Order is being disregarded."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Government say that from a particular community alone the sweepers are appointed."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"The question is whether after the Government Order throwing open public roads, streets, wells, tanks, etc., such oppression is being caused by the Brahmans—it is a question not with regard to sweeping alone, but with regard to throwing open public streets, roads, etc.—whether there is any persecution of a particular community. This is admitted in the answer. If the answer had been confined to saying that with the exception of sweeping there was no disregard shown to the Government Order, I can understand the argument advanced by the hon. the Minister. But he has practically admitted that oppression is caused by one community to the members of the depressed classes, thereby setting at nought the Government Order. So I want to know what action Government propose to take; whether it is in the portfolio of the hon. the Minister or the hon. the Law Member, I should like to know what action the Government propose to take in the matter."

## General.

*Change of the official year.*

* 113 Q.—Mr. C. MARUTHAVANAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government are having under contemplation any proposal to change the official year to the fasli year?

*A.*—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Are the Government aware that March, April and May are the best months for doing road repairs and for the construction of pounds, etc.? What I mean is that if the official year is changed to the fasli year the Government could carry on their works in the best part of the year when labour would be available."

11-45 a.m.

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR:—"Does the hon. Member want that the official year should be determined with reference to the question of road repairs, etc.?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"What I suggest is that road repairs, etc., might be done in the months of March, April and May when labour would be most available."

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The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"I may say that so far as I am aware the question of the official year does not interfere with the construction of buildings or other works."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"That is looking with complacency at the fact that in February and March building work is done hurriedly."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"Does the hon. Member suggest that the building construction is confined to a part of the official year ?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I believe there was some correspondence between the Government of India and the Local Governments on this subject and that the Local Governments were asked for their opinion."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"If my memory serves me, it was over two years ago that the Government of India, with whom the final decision rests, decided that the existing system should be adhered to."

## Economic condition.

*Purchase of produce from the Agency people in Gudem taluk.*

*114 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any notices were issued by the authorities that traders from the plains shall not purchase produce from the Agency people in the Gudem taluk except in weekly shandies ; and

(b) if so, what is the authority for issuing such notices ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"A report was called for at the time, but I am sorry this was not mentioned in the answer. As soon as the facts have been ascertained, they will be communicated to the hon. Member, or if he prefers it, he may put down a fresh question."

## Land Revenue.

*Levy on demarcation of lands for assignment.*

*115 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether of late a fee of Rs. 2 is being levied from each applicant for assignment of Government waste land before measuring and demarcating it by the village officers ;

(b) whether such levy is in accordance with the Madras Revenue Recovery Act or any other statutory provision ;

(c) whether such levy has been sanctioned by the Government ;

(d) if so, whether such sanction has been recommended by this Council ;

(e) whether it is a fact that a part of such fees is being paid to the village karnam as remuneration ;

(f) whether it is not an unnecessary hardship to collect such fees from all applicants indiscriminately ; and